

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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R 300608Z JUL 76
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6625
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EFIN IN
SUBJ: CITIBANK LOAN CLAIMS IN BANGLADESH

REF: DACCA 3455

1. WE SPOKE TO ALAN H WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT (HARDING-JONES TRANSFERRED) AND S.K.JAIN, CREDIT ADMINISTRATION OFFICER, CITIBANK, BOMBAY (HEAD OFFICE FOR ALL-INDIA OPERATIONS). THEY AGREE THAT CITIBANK DOES NOT APPEAR TO QUALIFY FOR SETTLEMENT UNDER THE NATIONALIZATION COMPENSATION PROCEDURES BUT WILL FOLLOW WHATEVER ADVICE THEIR DACCA SOLICITOR GIVES. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PICTURE THEY GIVE OF CITIBANK CLAIMS.

2. THE PRINCIPAL OF THE LOAN TO RALLIS HAD BEEN FULLY REPAID TO AN ACCOUNT IN GRINDLAY'S BANK (THE INTEREST IS STILL OUTSTANDING). ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO GOB HAD THE FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO UTTARA, A NATIONALIZED BANK, IN A NON-RESIDENT ACCOUNT DENOMINATED FNCB, KARACHI. THE FUNDS ARE STILL BLOCKED AND CANNOT BE USED EVEN FOR CITIBANK LOCAL EXPENSES SUCH AS PAYMENTS TO THEIR DACCA SOLICITOR. CITIBANK HAS ASKED ITS SOLICITOR TO ATTEMPT TO HAVE NAME OF ACCOUNT CHANGED FROM FNCB, KARACHI,
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TO CITIBANK, NEW YORK, IN HOPE OF

AVOIDING PAKISTAN DEBT CLAIMS.

3. THE LOANS TO JESSORE JUTE AND GALFRA-HABIB ARE STILL OUT-
STANDING. WILLIAMS HAS TENTATIVE PLANS TO VISIT DACCA IN AUGUST
TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FIRMS TO WORK OUT A REPAYMENT
SCHEDULE. IF THE NATIONALIZED FIRMS REFUSE TO HONOR THE DEBT,
CITIBANK WILL FILE SUIT.

4. CITIBANK TOOK SHARES IN JESSORE JUTE AS COLLATERAL SECURITY
FOR THAT LOAN BUT FAILED TO HAVE THE SHARES ENDORSED TO THE NAME
OF CITIBANK. AT FIRST THEY THOUGH THEY COULD FILE A CLAIM UNDER
THE COMPENSATION PROCEDURE FOR SHAREHOLDERS, BUT THEY HAVE SINCE
BEEN ADVISED THAT THEY HAVE NO CLAIM SINCE THE SHARES WERE NEVER
TRANSFERRED IN THE BANK'S NAME.

5. WE ARE POUCHING TO DACCA AND DEPARTMENT COPIES OF
CITIBANK DATA SHEET ON LOANS.
COURTNEY

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